

"But God Meant It Unto Good" (Genesis 50:15-21)

Proposition: Every child of God can know that God will use their suffering for their own good and God's own glory by holding fast

to the following three truths in our text.

I. Suffering Comes to Instruct us into God's Way

A. A Way not of Self Diagnosis

B. A Way of Sovereign Determination

II. Suffering Comes to Inject us into God's Work (Vs. 20)

A. A Work that Spared from Famine

B. A Work that Saved a Family

C. A Work that Secured a Future

III. Suffering Comes to Enclose us into God's Will

A. To Enclose Us in His Plan

B. To Enclose Us in His Purpose

"But God Meant It Unto Good" Gen 50:15-21

In this text we learn that God interrupts our suffering. God has a way of taking the sufferings and difficulties of life and turning them for good in our lives. I

read about a Chinese gentleman that lived on the border of China + Mongolian. In these days, there was constant conflict and strife along the perimeter. This Chinese man had a beautiful horse, a mare. One day she leaped over the corral and raced down the road, crossed the border + was captured by the Mongolian. His friends came to comfort him. "That's bad news," they said sadly. "What makes you think it was bad news?" asked the Chinaman.

"Maybe it's good news." A few days later they did not know what the bad news, the good news, the sufferings, trials, or difficulties of life hold for us but we can know that no matter what happens, God is in control and is able to turn it for good. Every child of God can know that God will use their suffering for for our own good and his own glory by holding fast to the following 3 truths in our text.

1. Suffering Comes To instruct us into God's Way. When it comes to the subject of suffering in the Bible, Joseph ranks right up there with Jesus + Job. Joseph suffered a great

He suffered rejection, betrayal, ~~misunderstanding~~

A. A Way out of Self-Diagnosis - As a young teen age man, standing on the brink of a bright future did not say, I'll take this path. Yes! The one of complete rejection by my brother. That one of utter humiliation by being sold as a slave. Yes that's the path I need. I think I'll walk down this road of slander + false accusation by Potiphar's Wife. Thank you! I'll take the ticket to Jail! None of us would choose that path. Are you crazy. Yet this was God's path. That leads me to the next point

B. A Way of Sovereign Determining - vs 20

They planned this for evil, calamity ^{or} adversity. What they did was sinful. They coveted, they stole, they lied, and did not honor their father. What they did was wrought by the demons of Hell. It was not authored by God. God is not the author of sin. He may permit evil, but does not originate sin. But God takes this evil circumstances and in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge develops a path for his child to walk in. Warren Wiersbe calls this the ⁽³⁾wise Providence of

II Suffering Comes to direct us into God's Work

Notice the latter part of verse 20. to bring pass, save much people alive. This suffer thrust Joseph into the work of God

1) ...few days later the mare came bolting into his corral, bringing with it a massive snow white stallion. His friends crowded around. "That's good news!" they cried. "What makes you think it's good news?" he asked. "Maybe it is bad news." Later that week, his son was riding the stallion, trying to break it. He was thrown off and he broke his leg. The friends came. "That's bad news," they cried. "What makes you think it is bad news?" asked the Chinese gentleman. "Maybe it's good news." The next week, war broke out with Mongolia, and a Chinese general came through town drafting all the young men. He took them all and they were all later killed, except for the young man who couldn't go because his leg was broken. The Chinaman said to his friends, "You see, the things you thought were bad turned out good; and the things you thought were good turned out bad."

2) ...misunderstanding, slander, false accusation, imprisonment, and being forgotten. But yet this was the path or the way of God. That fact reminds us that this is...

3) ...wise providence of a loving Father Who does all things well and (as it says in Romans 8:28) promises to make everything work for good."

1) **Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**

2) **...testimony in the midst of suffering, God may use to the saving of many lives. Amy Carmichael was a missionary to South India. Had she never experienced suffering, her name would probably not be well known today. She spent fifty-six years on the mission field and never returned home to England on furlough. An accident damaged her leg and left her bedridden for the last twenty years of her life. It was during these years in bed that she wrote most of her forty books. God used her experience of suffering to bring encouragement to millions of people. No matter what set of circumstances we receive, God will not waste an experience if we remain obedient to him.**

3) **...your suffering to reach a wayward son or daughter. To impact your family for eternity!**

4) **...promise of God and securing generations to come. You don't know, you have no idea how God is using your life and your experiences to impact generations to come.**

A work to save much people alive.

A. A Work that Spared from Famine -

Remember the catalyst that brought all this together. Pharaoh had a dream. God had gifted Joseph with the ability to interpret dreams. Dis pute the suffering that gift could not be taken away. Rom 11:29. ① No matter how much you suffer, the gifts that God has given you cannot be plucked away. There is a famine in the land and years ③

B. A Work that Saved a Family -

The family of Jacob had been devastated by the loss of Joseph. Brothers had turned against father. Through this suffering of Joseph, God was endeavoring to

salvage a family. To restore the Jacob a father. To forgive the sin of brothers. Could it be that God may use your suffering to ③

C. A Work that Secured a Future -

Had it not been for the suffering of Joseph, sold enslaved, imprisoned, the promised seed of Abraham would have perished in the famine ridden land of Canaan. But God is doing a work! I'll admit this work can't be traced from the bottom of the pit or the prison. Yet it is a work that is fulfilling the promise of God and ④

III. Suffering Comes to Enclave us into God's Will

oft times suffering comes to Enclave us or Bottle us up into God's will. Francis de Sales wrote "all I want only pure water, what

does it matter to me whether or not he brought
A. To Enclose Us in His Plan - Despite
the fact that being in the center of God's
will no matter what circumstances may
be experienced is the sweetest and most
peaceful and fulfilling place to be, many
of us would run from it like a scalded
dog if we were shown it in its totality. Yet
God uses suffering and difficulty to bring
us into his plan. Joseph could have never
saved the known world had he remained in his
father's house. God takes our suffering and uses
it to move us into a place of his planned usefulness.

B. To Enclose Us in His Purpose - The
purpose chosen by God for Joseph's
life was not to lord over his brothers in
the family business, but to lord over a
nation and save a famine stricken world.
Suffering has a way of placing us into
the purposes of God. That's why it is always
important to pray when in suffering and trial
"Lord, I know you are doing something, give
me eyes to see your hand at work in my life."
If you don't believe that God takes hardships
and suffering and uses them in his purposes

IV. Closing - There is not a greater type of our
Lord & Saviour Jesus in the Bible than Joseph.
Jesus suffers in his life & his death. He meant it
for evil. God turned it for good to the saving of
many.

1) ...it be brought in a vase of gold or of glass? Wat is it to me whether the will of God be presented to me in tribulation or consolation, since I desire and seek only the Divine will?

2) ...his purposes there are some people I'd like for you to talk to. : Ask Moses what good could come out of spending years in a lonely job with no recognition? Ask Abraham or Daniel what good could come from being sent to a place you've never heard of. Ask Stephen, Abel, or Jesus what good could come from a life being 'snuffed out' in it's prime. Ask Ruth, Naomi, or Mary what good could ever come from the loss of a loved one. Ask Job what good could come from losing your fortune. Ask Paul what good could come from physical affliction. Ask Joseph what good could ever come from family conflict.